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poisons and other chemical bodies. The question of acclimatization to chemical agents is especially well treated and partly based upon the author's own work.

Though essentially a compilation of facts, and hence not always free from the criticism of introducing statements upon doubtful authority—especially when one considers the author's great regard for accuracy and the comprehensiveness of knowledge necessary in experimental work—there is much that is original in the summarization at the end of chapters. Original work by the author is also included, and illustrated by some of the simple, but effective, diagrams as those showing the movements of amœbæ in light and in darkness.

The author's experiments upon amœba lead him to differ from Verworn and to decide that this lowly organized creature is strongly affected by light.

Such fundamental work is of the greatest interest to all biologists, whether devoted to botany or zoology, morphology or physiology, chemical or physical sides of life phenomena, and this chronicle of it should be of great interest to all who have escaped, or outgrown, that unfortunate myopia that too often limits the interests of the specialist. That the book is called a morphology is misleading as to its content: scientific physiology, without dependence upon medical instruction, would more fitly characterize it.

We trust the book will find the appreciation it so well deserves, both among specialists and among the intelligent laity.—E. A. A.

Oceanic Ichthyology.[2]—This work, issued as a special Bulletin in quarto form by the U. S. National Museum, is the joint production of Messrs. G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. Its preparation has extended over a number of years. As first planned it was to include only the oceanic fishes on the east coast of North America. As new material was acquired by the Museum from collections made by the steamers Blake, Albatross and Fish Hawk, and from other dredgings of the U. S. Fish Commission, the work expanded to its present form, and it now stands as a "compendium and summary of existing klowledge in regard to Oceanic Ichthyology." The discussion takes the form of descriptions of all forms of pelagic and deep sea fishes found in the seas of the world, special prominence being given to those of the Atlantic Ocean.

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[2] Oceanic Ichthyology: A Treatise on Deep-Sea and Pelagic Fishes of the World, with an Atlas containing 417 Figures. By G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. Special Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus., Washington, 1895.

As many of the specimens are unique, and much of the material fragmentary and hard to preserve, the descriptions have been made exceedingly full, so that a possible loss of material may not mean a total loss to science. Existing data concerning oceanic fishes have been carefully collected and incorporated with the authors' own observations in such a way as to be most serviceable for comparison and study by other naturalists.

A brief introduction deplores the meager knowledge of abyssal life, and points out that a more extended exploration of oceanic depths will reveal innumerable new forms.

A list of new genera and species shows 55 of the former represented by 153 of the latter.

The work comprises 553 pages of text and 123 plates, the latter issued separately as an atlas accompanying the text. It will be for many years the only text-book of the subject. A melancholy interest attaches to it as the last and most important contribution to science made by Dr. Goode. His death occurred almost immediately after its completion.

Fishes of North and Middle America.[3]—This work takes the form of a descriptive catalogue of the species of fish-like vertebrates found in the waters of North America, north of the Isthmus of Panama. It includes, besides the fresh-water forms, those of the off-shore banks and continental slopes of both oceans, the waters of the Gulf Stream, and also the Pelagic and abyssal forms that occur north of the equator. The present volume contains descriptions of 1,627 species belonging to 522 genera. These in turn are classified into 148 families, ranged under 28 orders. The authors recognize but 3 classes: Leptocardii, Marsipobranchii and Pisces, relegating to Pisces all fish-like vertebrates with paired fins. Sixteen new forms are described, and in the classification of these species the authors have found it necessary to create 1 new family, Steinegeriidæ, and 16 new genera. It has also been deemed advisable, for closer definition, to introduce 24 new subgenera.

We find in this work both conspicuous merits and demerits. Its greatest merit is the thoroughness of the work done in the discrimination of the species enumerated, and the appropriateness and conciseness of the descriptions. This is the principal labor involved in the preparation of the book, and it is this which constitutes its chief utility to the student. The excellent practice of furnishing analytical keys, which greatly facilitates determinations, is followed. It is a monument of

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[3] The Fishes of North and Middle America. By D. S. Jordan and B. W. Evermann. Bull. of the U. S. National Museum, No. 47. Pt. I, Washington, 1896.